Extracts of two Letters from Mr. Martin Lister *to the Publisher, of* June 14. 1671. *and* July 5. 1671. *concerning the kind of Insect, hatched of the English* Kermes, *formerly taken notice of and described by the same in* Numb. 71. p. 2164; *as also the Use of these Purple Insect-Husks for tinging, together with a comparison made of this* English Purple-Kermes *with the* Scarlet-Kermes *of the Shops.*

THe *first* Letter, *June* 10th. I found several of the *Patellæ Kermi formes* hatched in a Box, where I had purposely put them. They prove a sort, as I guessed by the figure of the Worm, of Bees, but certainly the least, that I ever yet saw of that Tribe, as not much exceeding in their whole bulk the half of a Pismire. They are very compact and thick for the bigness; of a cole-black colour. They seem to want neither stings, nor the three balls in a triangle in their fore-head; which yet are things to be referred to the testimony of a Microscope. That which is very remarkable to the naked Eye, is a white or straw-colour large and round spot on the back: Of their four Wings the upper pair are shaded or dark-spotted, the undermost pair are clear. We may entitle them, according to our custom, *Apiculæ nigræ maculâ super humeros sub-flavescente insignitæ, è patellis sive favis membranaceis, veri Kermes similibus, suâque itidem purpurâ tingentibus, Ceraſi aut Rosæ aliarumve arborum virgis adtextis, exclusæ.*

This of the Purple-Husks, and the other History of Scarlet-staining Eggs * I present you as parallels of our Engl sh store to *Kermes* and *Cocheneil*; I mean, additaments to encrease the number of agreeable tinging Materials and not Medicaments, unless wary and safe Tryal shall discover to us if they have any Medicinal qualities, as use and custom hath made us believe the Exotic have in an high degree. One of the said husks, I sent you, adhered to a Rose-tree-twig, and the other to a Cherry-tree. But a Rose-bush since hath afforded me some scores of these *patellæ*, many of which are hatched in the box I put them. It is to be further observed, 1. that those that look the blackest, yield the deepest and best purple: 2. That as the Bees come to maturity, the dye seems to be spent, and the Husks grow dry. 3. That the

* Of which latter, see *Numb.* 72. *p.* 2176. 2177.

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the young ones make their way out at ſeveral ſmall holes; whereas the true *Kermes*-husk ſeems to be pierced but in one place.

The *Second*; The diſcovery of our *Engliſh Kermes* hath very much pleaſed ſome of the Curious in theſe parts; who reſolve upon Tryals of it the next ſeaſon. I think, I advertiſed you formerly, that that deep purple or violet, with which the inſides of the husks are lin'd, is much ſpent, if the husks be not taken whileſt the Bees are in *vermiculo*; and the blackeſt husks are richeſt in colour. Yeſterday in very good company we compar'd our Engliſh *Purple-kermes* with the *Scarlet-kermes* or Grains of the Shops, and found them in every point to agree ſave in the colour of their Juices; and particularly (finding in ſome parcels of the Shops many yet ſticking to little twigs of the *Ilex*,) we confidently affirm, that thoſe as well as ours are only contiguous to the Ilex-branches, and are not *excreſcencies* of the Tree, much leſs *fruit* or *berries*; by which abuſive names they have been too long known; But that they are the artifice and ſole work of the mother-Bee in order to the more convenient hiving and nouriſhment of her young.

An Extract of a Letter, written to the Publiſher by the Excellent Johannes Hevelius, *concerning his further Obſervations of the* New Star *near the* Beak *of the* Swan; *to be compared with what was formerly publiſhed of the ſame Argument in* Numb. 65, *and* Numb. 66.

This Extract we ſhall give you in the ſame Language it was written from *Dantzick* the 1ſt. of *May* 1671. ſt. n.

—*De reliquo mearum etiam partium eſſe duxi, Vobis quantocyus ſignificare, me nudius-tertius, die videl.* 29. April. *Novam illam Stellam ſub capite* Cygni, *ad Viam Lacteam, quam Anno proximè præterito à menſe* Junio & Julio, *ad uſque* 14. Octob. *conſpexeram, denuo obſervaſſe, & quidem eo ipſo loco, quo tunc temporis conſiſtebat. Interim magnitudine mihi nunc aliquanto major apparet; quippe excedit illam in Roſtro Cygni, nec non eam quæ eſt in ancone inferioris alæ Cygni, ſe quæ illi quæ eſt in Pectore Cygni æquatur, niſi quod lumine paulò obtuſiori & rubicundiori modò luceat. Quâ verò die primùm rurſus illuxerit, affirmare adeò certò non poſſum. Nam*

cùm